
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 98: First Focus backgrounder, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) brief, & Event on Youth Perspectives on the Nexus of Climate and Peacebuilding

August 22, 2022

Quick Summary

First Focus on Children published a backgrounder on the “Best Interests of the Child” standard. The fact sheet summarizes why a standard is necessary, what is important to include in the standard, and polling data about Americans’ interest in the standard. The polling data demonstrate consistent support for the standard over the years, especially in comparison to a “child well-being” standard. The key factors to include in a “best interest of the child” standard include:

1. **The child’s views:** Children’s views should be given due weight according to their age and maturity to avoid paternalism and discrimination.

2. **The child's safety:** Children should be protected from all forms of violence, injury, and abuse.
3. **The child's well-being:** Policies should ensure children's development, including their physical, mental, and emotional health, access to education, and access to play and leisure.
4. **The child's identity:** While all children have universal needs, there are needs that are specific to groups of children based on their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, and immigration status, among other things.
5. **Family unity:** Policies should seek to maintain family relationships, including extended family, where there is not an imminent threat of harm to the child.

The fact sheet also describes how the “best interests” factors could be used to inform international policies. To read the backgrounder, click [here](#).

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) published a new brief titled “[The Pediatrician's Role in Supporting Nurturing Care for ECD](#).” This publication provides a “brief overview of the science of early childhood development (ECD), the components of the Nurturing Care Framework, and specific, actionable ways pediatricians can champion ECD in their clinics and communities.” The brief also focuses on strengthening the capacity of pediatric societies in [promoting ECD in Kenya and Tanzania](#). To read the brief, click [here](#).

The Children's Policy and Funding Initiative presented at the GCE-US Coalition meeting which was focused on International Youth Day and International Humanitarian Day. The initiative introduced the advocacy priorities for promoting a whole child and life course approach in US policy and summarized the increasing challenges children and young people due to COVID, conflict, and climate. The initiative also highlighted its Youth Alliance Working Group, a group of interns, fellows, and young people who ensure youth perspectives are part of the advocacy process. Other speakers at the GCE-US coalition meeting included [Nhial Deng](#) South Sudanese Refugee, Writer, Youth Advocate, and Community Activist; [Doris Mwikali](#) Youth Representative, SDG4 Education 2030 High-Level Steering Committee Sherpa Group and UNESCO SDG4 Youth Network Executive Committee; and National Youth Climate Action Program Lead, Kenya Red Cross; [Rachel McKinney](#) Team Lead for Thematic Areas, Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies; and [Tony Baker](#) Senior Advisor for External Engagement- Education, World Vision International. To learn more about the GCE-US, click [here](#).

Spotlight

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) and the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace, and Security held a hybrid event about “Youth Perspectives on the Climate and Peacebuilding Nexus.” This event included youth speakers from around the world that are advocating for more action on climate change and peacebuilding and combining the two.

The event was started with the video trailer of “1.5 Degrees of Peace” by award-winning Gen-Z filmmaker [Kasha Sequoia Slavner](#). This documentary explores stories of young people, especially those most affected by climate change and conflicts, working to break down the silos between peace and climate justice movements. Their journeys to find positive solutions and hold leaders accountable, while challenging their own fears and anxieties, ignites courage within us to take action alongside them, and unify a movement for peace and climate justice for all.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kj80cZq4MCg>

Representatives from the Baha'i International Community emphasized that **“young people are also capable of creating strong and flexible networks. They're often at the very forefront of witnessing issues of climate change and access security issues. So when we think about the integration of young people for their full week for substantive participation in decision-making processes we draw the full extent of the human experience.”**

One of many youth speakers, [Jayaa Jaggi](#), a Youth Advocate from Pakistan, emphasized how violence and climate change are connected, stating that “we all know that climate change is a significant driver of conflict in any region, especially when a major chunk of populations are dependent upon natural resources for their livelihoods. These conflicts can turn into violent extremism very easily... to have power [over] the resources, creates competition and causes mistrust among the community and the government or the policymakers.” She also underscored the prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence and how IPV increases when conflict and climate change disasters occur.

Some of the recommendations from this event include bringing indigenous communities to the table, enhancing the education of people in different contexts, raising the nexus of these issues to higher levels, collaborating with older generations, and building solidarity across countries. To follow UNOY’s recap of the event, click [here](#).

Events

- Futures Without Violence & Promising Futures [virtual event](#) “**Centering Equality in Multisector Collaboration.**” August 23, 2022, at 3 pm ET.
- The Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN), The Arab Network for Early Childhood Development (ANECD), Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC), the International Step-by-Step Association, & the Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN) [virtual event](#) “**Global Webinar Series on Early Childhood Development and Climate Change: Learning Across Continents for Young Children’s right to a clean, safe, and sustainable environment.**” September 1, 2022, at 5 am ET.
- Keeping Children Safe [virtual event](#) “**Child participation in international law: a talk by Dr. Alison Bisset.**” September 6, 2022, at 6:30 am ET.
- Global Campaign for Education-US [virtual event](#) “**GCE-US Coalition Meeting.**” September 12, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- Foreign Policy [virtual dialogue](#) “**From Fragility to Resistance: Rethinking International Cooperation in the Hardest Places.**” September 16, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- U.S. Department of Labor [webinar](#) “**Shining a Light on Child Labor and Forced Labor in Global Supply Chains.**” September 28, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- **International Day of Non-Violence.** October 2, 2022.
- Global Campaign for Education-US [virtual event](#) “**Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Community of Practice Meeting.**” October 6, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- **World Mental Health Day.** October 10, 2022.
- **International Day of the Girl.** October 11, 2022.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Foreign Policy [article](#) **“One Year Later, Afghanistan Is a Land of Shrugs and Sadness: The return of the Taliban may have ended the fighting. The suffering goes on.”**
- UNICEF USA [report](#) **“Depriving Girls Of Secondary Education Translates To A Loss Of At Least \$500 Million For Afghan Economy In Last 12 Months.”**
- Euronews [report](#) **“Taliban one year on: The disappearing daughters of Afghanistan.”**
- UNICEF USA [report](#) **“Drought Forcing More Girls into Child Marriage in the Horn of Africa.”**
- Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, & Security [article](#) **“Girls’ Education and Islam: A Divine Command with Historical Precedent.”**
- World Vision International [article](#) **“Learning from Child Activism: Stopping Child Marriages in Bangladesh & Ghana).”**
- Girls LEAD Working Group [brief](#) **“Girls LEAD Policy Brief.”**
- Save the Children [article](#) **“Lead Like a Girl: Ensuring adolescent girls’ meaningful participation in decision-making processes.”**
- Save the Children [report](#) **“The Global Girlhood Report 2020: How COVID-19 is putting progress in peril.”**



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